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EXAMINER

LE, HUYEN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/893,997 | Applicant(s) JORGENSEN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner HUYEN D. LE | Art Unit 2614 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6,8-10,12,14-28 and 34-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-16,18-28 and 35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6,8-10,12,17,34 and 36-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) 14-16,18-28 and 35 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

I. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 17, 34, 36-39 and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Killion (U.S. patent 6,876,749).

Regarding claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 17 and 34, Killion teaches a microphone assembly (1) including a casing (3, 35) mounted in an electronic communication device (see the abstract and col. 2, lines 26-29). As shown in figures 1 and 2A, the microphone assembly comprises one or more sound inlet ports (7, 9, 11, 13, 43, 45, 47, 49, 77, 79); one or more microphones (5, 6, 41) within the casing; one or more channels (11, 13, 47, 49, 77, 79) for allowing sound to pass through the one or more sound inlet ports to the microphone; and one or more electrical controlling devices (10, 12, 27, 63, 75, 81, 85; also see col. 3, lines 24-32, lines 42-67; col. 4, lines 19-59; col. 5, lines 45-58 and col. 6, lines 6-30) within the casing that can be operated by a user for selectively controlling the operation of the assembly.

Killion further shows the inlet ports, the microphones and the controlling devices that are combined to form an integrated part of the microphone assembly (the Applicant should also note the definition of the term “integrated” from the Webster’s II New Riverside University Dictionary).

Killion shows the electrical controlling device (10, 12, 14, 16, 75, 81, 85) that forms part of the sound inlet port as claimed (figures 1, 3). As shown in figures 1, 2A and 3, the electrical controlling device can be operated by the user without affecting the shape or the configuration of the sound inlet ports and without affecting the configuration of the channel (11, 47 or 13, 49) for allowing sound to pass through the sound inlet ports to the microphone.

Regarding claim 3, Killion teaches a direction microphone that has a sound inlet spout (11, 13, 47, 49) connected to a sound inlet port (7, 9, 43, 45, col. 3, lines 10-16 and col. 6, lines 5-14).

Regarding claim 4, Killion teaches an omni-direction microphone that has a sound inlet spout (11, 13, 47, 49) connected to a sound inlet port (7, 9, 43, 45, col. 3, lines 16-20 and col. 6, lines 14-24).

Regarding claims 9 and 12, as broadly claimed, it is inherent that the operations of the Killion hearing aid device comprises powering down or activating the device (on/off switch), or the controlling device (10, 75) is adapted to switch between an on-state and off-state of the microphone assembly (on-state or off-state of the directional or omni-directional position).

Regarding claim 36, Killion teaches a microphone assembly (1, 33) for mounting in an electronic communication device (see the abstract and col. 2, lines 26-29). As shown in figure 1, 2A and 3, the microphone assembly comprises a microphone housing (3, 35 or 41), a sound inlet port (7, 9, 11, 13, 43, 45, 47, 49, 77, 79) for passing sound to the microphone housing, a channel (11, 13, 47, 49, 77, 79) for allowing sound to pass through the sound inlet port to a microphone, and wherein the sound inlet port includes an electrical controlling device (10, 27, 63, 75, 81, 83)

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forming at least part of the sound inlet port, and the electrical controlling device is operable by a user for selectively controlling operation of the microphone assembly.

Regarding claim 37, Killion shows the electrical controlling device which is disposed at least partly within the sound inlet port (figure 3).

Regarding claim 38, Killion shows the electrical controlling device (10, 27, 63, 75) that includes a first part (10, 75, 76, 77, 79) being movable relative to both a second part and the microphone housing (27, 63, 35, 81, 83) as claimed.

Regarding claims 39 and 41, Killion shows the first part of the controlling device that includes channels in the front sound inlet protective screen (77) and the rear sound inlet protective screen (79) for allowing sound to pass through the sound inlet port to the microphone housing as claimed (figure 3).

Regarding claim 42, Killion shows the microphone housing that includes an outer surface and an inlet as claimed (figure 2A, 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

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evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 9, 12, 40 and 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Killion et al. (U.S. patent 6,876,749).

Regarding claims 9 and 12, as interpreted in a different manner, Killion does not teach that at least one of the controlling devices is adapted to switch between an on-state and an off-state as claimed. However, the examiner takes the Office Notice that providing an on/off button for the switch in a hearing aid device is very well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide an on/off button, powering the electronic device and/or activating the electronic device in the the Killion device for better adjusting and operating the device.

Regarding claim 40, Killion does not specifically teach the electrical controlling device (10, 75) that is a push button as claimed. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide any type of switch for the actuator switch or the controlling device (10, 75) of Killion such a push button for alternate choice and better adjusting and operating the device.

Regarding claims 43-45, Killion teaches a microphone assembly comprising a casing (3, 35) for mounting in an electronic communication device (see the abstract and col. 2, lines 26-29). As shown in figures 1 and 2A, the microphone assembly has a sound inlet port (7, 9, 11, 13, 43, 45, 47, 49, 77, 79), and an electrical controlling device (10, 27, 63, 75) that can be operated by a user for selectively controlling the operation of the assembly, wherein the sound inlet port the

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electrical controlling device are combined to form an integrated microphone assembly (the Applicant should also note the definition of the term “integrated” from the Webster’s II New Riverside University Dictionary).

Killion does not specifically teach the electrical controlling device (10, 75) that includes a user operable actuator having a generally rounded outer configuration as claimed. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide any type of switch for the electrical controlling device (10, 75) of Killion such as a switch having a generally rounded outer configuration for alternate choice and better adjusting and operating the device.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 11/24/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Responding to the arguments about the limitation of “one or more channels” in claim 1, the examiner has explained in detail in the Office Action. The Applicant should note that Killion et al. does show one or more channels (11, 13, 47, 49, 77, 79) for allowing sound to pass through the one or more sound inlet ports to the microphone (figures 1, 2A and 3). Further, as shown in the drawings, the electrical controlling device (10, 12, 75, 81, 83, 85) can be operated by the user without affecting the shape or the configuration of the sound inlet ports (7, 9, 11, 13, 43, 45, 47, 49, 77, 79) and without affecting the configuration of the channel (11, 47 or 13, 49, the Applicant should further note that the shape and the configuration of the channel 11, 47 in figures 1, 2A and 3 do not change when the electrical control device is operated) for allowing sound to pass through the sound inlet ports to the microphone.

The examiner has explained in detail about the rejections over Killion in the Office Action. However, the Applicant can contact to examiner at the time and the telephone number listed below for a personal interview to discuss the Office Action and the differences between the cited prior art and the subject matter cited in the claims as requested.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN D. LE whose telephone number is (571) 272-7502. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CURTIS KUNTZ can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/HUYEN D. LE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

HL
February 15, 2010